

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00
ERDA-05 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 INR-07 IO-13
L-03 NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-05 USIA-06 OES-07
SS-15 SP-02 INT-05 /103 W
-----112192 281959Z /63

R 280850Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 327

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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DEPT PASS EPA FOR STROTHER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, SENV, UR, US, EAGR

SUBJECT: US-USSR ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT: INTEGRATED PEST MANAGE-
MENT (02.03-11) - U.S. DELEGATION VISIT REPORT

REFS: (A) STATE 061784, (B) STATE 109285, (C) MOSCOW 6833,
(D) MOSCOW 5769,

1. SUMMARY. TWO U.S. SCIENTISTS COMPLETED 45-DAY VISIT TO COLLECT
WEED SAMPLES JULY 24. SOVIETS DENIED ACCESS TO TWO PRIMARY
COLLECTION AREAS. SOME USEFUL FIELD WORK DONE BUT OVERALL
VISIT A DISAPPOINTMENT. SCIENTISTS OUTLINED POTENTIAL MUTUAL
BENEFITS FROM COOPERATION. RECOMMEND U.S. SIDE EXPRESS TO SOVIETS
DISSATISFACTION WITH PROGRAM. END SUMMARY

2. TWO U.S. SCIENTISTS, DRS. LLOYD ANDRES AND ROBERT HAWKES
OF THE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH LABORATORY FOR BIOLOGICAL CONTROL
OF WEEDS, VISITED THE USSR (MOSCOW, LENINGRAD, KISHINEV,
DUSHANBE, YEREVAN, TASHKENT AND SIMFEROPOL) JUNE 11 -
JULY 24 UNDER SUBJECT AGREEMENT.

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3. ANDRES AND HAWKES CAME PRIMARILY TO COLLECT THE WEED
HALOGETON GLOMERATUS. ANDRES HAD FOUND THIS WEED IN 1965 IN
BOTH THE NUKUS AREA SOUTH OF THE ARAL SEA AND THE SUGATINSKIY
VALLEY EAST OF ALMA-ATA AND RETURNED SPECIFICALLY TO COLLECT
IN BOTH AREAS. DESPITE U.S. REQUESTS (REFS A AND B) AND
APPARENT SOVIET CONCURRENCE (REF C), SOVIETS DID NOT PROVIDE

ACCESS TO THESE AREAS. INSTEAD, THEY ARRANGED WHAT AMOUNTED TO A PROGRAM OF SCHOLARLY TOURISM: FAMILIARIZATION VISITS TO COLLECTIVE FARMS AND AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTES COUPLED WITH TOURS OF LOCAL CULTURAL SPOTS. ONLY AFTER REPEATED REQUESTS DID U.S. EXPERTS SUCCEED IN DOING FIELD WORK, PRIMARILY IN THE FERGANA VALLEY IN TADZHIKISTAN. THEY DID NOT, HOWEVER, GAIN ACCESS TO NUKUS OR SUGATINSKIY OR COLLECT HALOGETON GLOMERATUS SAMPLES. DESPITE THE VALUE OF CONTACTS WITH SOVIET SPECIALISTS, ANDRES AND HAWKES WERE DISAPPOINTED WITH VISIT, OBSERVING THAT THEY HAD "WASTED A MONTH."

4. ANDRES AND HAWKES LEARNED ON THEIR ARRIVAL JUNE 11 THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE GOING TO EITHER AREA. EMBASSY HAD ADVISED, HOWEVER, ON MAY 17 THAT TWO SCIENTISTS WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO VISIT NUKUS (REF D).

5. ANDRES AND HAWKES OBSERVED THAT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE ROOM FOR MUTUALLY-BENEFICIAL FUTURE COOPERATION IN FIELD OF WEED CONTROL. U.S. PROBABLY STANDS TO GAIN MORE BECAUSE WE HAVE A GREATER PROBLEM WITH WEEDS INDIGENOUS TO THE USSR THAN SOVIETS HAVE WITH WEEDS OF AMERICAN ORIGIN. I.S. HOPES TO LEARN, FOR EXAMPLE, SOVIET TECHNIQUES FOR CONTROLLING HALOGETON GLOMERATUS, WHICH IS WIDESPREAD IN UTAH, WYOMING AND NEVADA RANGELAND. SOVIETS ARE HAVING PROBLEMS WITH RAGWEED, WHICH HAS ARRIVED IN THE USSR WITH U.S. GRAIN SHIPMENTS. RAGWEED IS A GROWING CONCERN IN KRASNODAR AND KUBAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REGIONS IN PARTICULAR.

6. SOVIETS ARE ALSO INTERESTED IN U.S. INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT METHODS AND TECHNOLOGY. ACCORDING TO ANDRES AND HAWKES, THE USSR LAGS BEHIND THE U.S. IN THIS AREA BY 5-10 YEARS. THE U.S. SPECIALISTS ALSO NOTED THAT SOVIET QUARANTINE COMPETENCE IS MARKEDLY INFERIOR TO OURS.

7. WE BELIEVE THAT SOVIETS SHOULD BE APPROACHED ABOUT THEIR FAILURE TO FOLLOW-THROUGH ON COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE FIELD PROGRAM, PARTICULARLY IN SUGATINSKIY VALLEY, FOR DRS. ANDRES AND HAWKES. THE DEPARTMENT, WITH EPA CONCURRENCE, MAY WISH TO EXPRESS U.S. DISSATISFACTION TO SOVIET AUTHORITIES. OR, IF THE DEPARTMENT AND EPA PREFER, THE EMBASSY COULD BRING THIS MATTER TO SOVIET ATTENTION HERE. PLEASE ADVISE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, PEST CONTROL, REPORTS, SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS, MEETING DELEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MOSCOW10855
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770271-0082
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977079/aaaaahqr.tel
Line Count: 111
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f0d1b370-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 61784, 77 STATE 109285, 77 MOSCOW 6833, 77 MOSCOW 5769
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1960288
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-USSR ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT: INTEGRATED PEST MANAGE- MENT (02.03-11) - U.S. DELEGATION VISIT REPORT
TAGS: TGEN, SENV, EAGR, UR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f0d1b370-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009